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SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS IN USSR PRODUCTION  
OF MACHINES FOR CONSUMERS' GOODS

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The Communist Party and the Soviet Government have set up the task of sharply increasing the production of consumers' goods and of assuring a more rapid development of the light and food industry. To carry out this assignment, large textile combines, synthetic fibers plants, and hundreds of other plants are being built for the output of industrial and food products. Many existing light industry enterprises will be expanded and remodeled on the basis of the latest techniques.

Equipping light industry enterprises under construction or in operation with the latest machinery is one of the most important conditions for greatly increasing the output of consumers' goods and for bettering their quality, finish, and external appearance. In the last few years, mass production of a number of machines and aggregates for producing [consumers'] goods has been mastered. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Machine Building, its design bureaus, its scientific research organizations, and its plants are far from supplying light industry with up-to-date and diverse equipment. The present production level of machines, machine tools, and mechanisms for manufacturing consumers' goods is not fully meeting the new tasks facing light industry.

The machine builders have not yet supplied light industry with urgently needed machines. For example, they are not producing spinning frames and multishuttle looms for the production of worsted suiting fabrics, or twisting machines for the production of fancy twisted yarn for making eponge and boucle. Looms are not being produced for making napped fabrics, tweed (pestrotkanny) goods, pique and baize bedspreads, Turkish towels, or bath sheets. The machine builders are not supplying equipment for making thread products, felt hats, or tulle products.

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The textile mills are being equipped very slowly with machinery for dyeing, printing, and finishing cloth and tricots. Because of this, the Chinkent Combine, for example, turns out coarse goods instead of melange fabrics. The Gori Combine cannot provide the consumer with fine finished satin or marquisette. The Leninakan Combine, instead of producing printed cloth, puts out plain dyed goods which are in limited demand.

The consumers are justified when they complain about the great shrinkage of staple goods after washing. The machine builders were made responsible in 1952 for putting out an experimental machine for nonshrink finishing of light fabrics, and in 1953, a machine for finishing heavy fabrics. This task has not yet been completed. Machines for making wrinkle- and water-resistant woollens and part woollens for suits and coats are not being produced.

The leather industry is also inadequately equipped from a technical point of view. A number of operations in processing leather have not been mechanized. The Ministry of Machine Building is not supplying this industry with new equipment such as fleshing machines for processing large hides, cutting machines, hydraulic wringers, stretchers, roller scouring (razvodnyy valichnyy) machines, drying and degreasing units, and conditioning chambers.

The footwear enterprises, too, are not equipped with the newest machinery. Not only has the supply of machines to the footwear industry not been expanded of late, but it has even been curtailed. At present, the production of footwear machines is for the most part the responsibility of the Leningrad Vpered Plant. However, this plant is not prepared to produce intricate machines. For the past 2 years, the plant has not produced lacing (zatyazhnoy), lasting (obtyazhnoy), sole fastening, or finishing machines. An increase in the production capacities of footwear enterprises depends to a decisive degree on these machines.

In order to organize the production of high-quality one- and four-ply caprone stockings in various cities and rayons of the country, flat-bed hosiery machines are needed. Blueprints are available, and an experimental model has been developed, but after 2 years, the mass production of these machines has not yet been set up. Soviet consumers are demanding patterned socks. The Ministry of Machine Building, however, ignores these demands, and from year to year postpones the manufacture of circular hosiery automatics. Machines for mercerizing fine cotton yarn are not being produced. This situation is holding back the development of production of high-quality stockings and socks.

The Ministry of Machine Building in most cases refuses to build machines which are required in comparatively small quantities to complement constant-flow technology. Thus, for some years, the perfection of carbonizing machines for the chemical cleaning of impurities from wool, combing machines for long wool and for flax, automatic looms for the silk industry, special automatics for wools and linens, and equipment for the production of rope has not been undertaken. As a result, light industry must, by decreasing the production of spare parts, manufacture small-series machines at its own plants and mill workshops, which in many cases are poorly adapted for this purpose.

The designing, building, and testing of new machines have been dragging on for years. In 1952, the Leningrad Vulkan Plant built a small high-production carding machine for cotton batting production. Tests showed good results. Nonetheless, Glavlegmash (Main Administration of Light Machine Building) has not taken measures to produce such machines. In 1952, the Penza Machine Building Plant received an assignment to make an experimental model of a small spinning frame. However, the project is progressing slowly, and it is not known when industry will receive the first model.

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The failure to produce circular looms is a characteristic example of many years of procrastination. These machines underwent successful testing. They produce a considerably more even and dense weave, and their productivity is several times as great as that of conventional looms. Various branches of the textile industry are waiting for circular looms, but for the second year, Zakharov, chief engineer of Glavlegmash, has for various reasons postponed their output.

Many examples of delays can be cited in other branches of light industry. Shoe presses for cutting bottom stock, which the Vpered Plant began to develop in 1948, have not yet been set up for series production. Preparations for producing hydraulic machines for nailing on heels began before the war, but results are not yet apparent. An experimental model of a sewing machine of the 29th class was built in 1950, but its production has not yet begun.

The plants of the Ministry of Machine Building are not introducing enough automatics into light industry, particularly for finishing operations. They turn out finishing equipment without automatic controlling and regulating devices. The Ministry of Machine Building has a Main Administration of Instrument Building, as well as special scientific research organizations. Yet, light industry must develop and produce automatic devices at its own enterprises. For example, sizing machines and finishing equipment received from machine building plants are equipped with automatic devices in the workshops of light industry.

The Ministry of Machine Building and its plants are not building enough new models of machines for light industry. Design bureaus of machine building plants are not adequately studying the operation of their own machines at enterprises and pay little attention to improving the machines they have developed.

The Scientific Research Institute of Light and Textile Machine Building (A. N. Bryukhin, scientific director) has failed to develop new advanced machines and aggregates for finishing operations at textile mills.

Workers of the machine building industry are not heeding as they should the valuable suggestions of workers at enterprises and at branches of scientific research institutes of light industry. More than a year and a half has passed since the Ivanovo Scientific Research Institute of the Cotton Industry modernized drawing frames put out by the Penza Machine Building Plant. Nevertheless, the plant still puts out the old-type machines. The Spinning and Weaving Mill imeni Otkyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya has for 2 years used ring-type thread separators on spinning frames. This has given good results, and has decreased by 30 percent the number of yarn doffers [persons]. Yet, Glavlegmash plants continue to put out spinning frames without ring-type thread separators.

The situation with regard to machines for blending wool which could replace heavy hand labor at woolen mills and at felting enterprises is intolerable. For many years the needs of workers of the wool industry have remained unsatisfied. Machine builders have not yet even planned such an important aggregate.

For 3 years light industry has been trying to perfect and produce an advanced wool ring-spinning-frame with a comb drawing-device of increased power developed by the Scientific Research Institute of the Wool Industry. As early as the previous years, personnel of the Central Scientific Research Institute of Bast Fibers developed and tested a high-production flux ring-spinning-frame. It took 10 years for the machine builders to master the mass production of these machines.

Indolence and placidity within separate organs of the Ministry of Machine Building, at Glavlegmash, at the Scientific Research Institute of Light and Textile Machine Building, and at design bureaus of a number of plants (Prenskenskiy, Tashkent, Shuya, Penza) must be overcome. To fulfill the most important tasks in equipping light industry with the latest machinery, these organizations and plants must drastically improve their methods of work.

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Frequently, new machines produced for light industry have incomplete units and have serious shortcomings. The Podol'sk Machine Building Plant imeni Kalinin has for several years produced ATK-100 looms on which the automatic instruments do not work. The Kamenka Machine Building Plant supplies textile enterprises with automatics on which the bobbin changing mechanism frequently breaks down, the tension devices work poorly, or some of the more important parts wear out rapidly.

The refusal of the Ministry of Machine Building to satisfy the needs of light industry for spare parts for equipment produced by its plants is not normal. The plan for supplying spare parts for light industry does not in itself answer the industry's needs. Even this plan, as a rule, is not being fulfilled. Thus, the Penza Plant manufactured rings for spinning frames in 1952 at 83 percent of plan, and for the first half of 1953, at only 24 percent. The Ivanovo Textile Machine Building Plant fulfilled the plan for drying-machine cylinders in 1952 at 25 percent of plan, and for the first half of 1953 at 34 percent.

All of this is evidence of the fact that the Ministry of Machine Building has not shown due concern for satisfying the needs and demands of light industry. The machine builders must radically improve their work in equipping light industry with all types of the newest technical equipment.

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